

## BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTES.

WHAT TO DO AT RECESS. By *George Ellsworth Johnson*. Boston: Ginn, 1910.  
Pp. 33, Price, 25 cents.

The author is the successful superintendent of playgrounds and parks and vacation schools in Pittsburg, Pa. In this little book, fully illustrated with attractive drawings of children at play, Mr. Johnson talks with chatty informality to teachers first of the primary departments, next, of the intermediate and finally of the grammar grades. To each group he mentions and describes large numbers of games particularly suited to the needs of its pupils, following their natural inclinations and aptitudes. The simple games require no apparatus, or only that of such a primitive character that no school yard is too limited in size or opportunity to provide it. His suggestions are eminently practical and helpful and can be easily utilized even by the teacher who is most untrained in kindergarten and gymnasium plays and practices. For the primary grades many favorite games of a generation ago, such as London Bridge and Prisoner's Base are advocated, while track and field athletics are encouraged to find a place in the intermediate grades. Mr. Johnson urges the revival of folk dances of all countries and asks the teachers to learn them at first hand of foreign mothers of the neighborhood whenever possible. At the end of each chapter there is a list of games classified in such obvious and suggestive divisions as dramatic games, ball games, running games, singing games, dances, track and field events. Speaking of Athens and comparing the result and methods of Athenian education with that of the most advanced nations of to-day, Mr. Johnson introduces his preface most pertinently as follows:

"Once upon a time the citizens of a certain city were greatly interested in the nurture and training of children, and when the question arose as to whether they should build a great public school or open a playground, it was decided to open a playground. Now it came to pass, in the course of years, that the children of that city advanced so far beyond the rest of the human race that, in all the centuries since, the nations that have gone on building public schools and neglecting to open playgrounds have not been able to catch up with them even to this day."

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THE CRIME OF THE CONGO. By *A. Conan Doyle*. New York: Doubleday, 1909.

King Leopold of Belgium can no longer receive complaints of his Congo administration, nor can he justify himself or change what has been done, but his successor has now an opportunity either to explain and defend the charges brought against his uncle or to work a great reform as the case may be. Sir A. Conan Doyle is very strongly convinced that the administration in the Congo lands is the greatest crime known to human history. He mentions important witnesses of the crime from all nations, and says there is no possibility of error concerning the facts thus reported. He hopes to arouse sympathy with his view and active cooperation so that the banner of humanity and civilization might be carried forward in such a cause by the two great English-speaking nations. From the details here given, which are incredibly revolting, it is clear that measures should be taken for thorough investigation. That many interested travelers have passed through the region and have seen nothing of the alleged outrages, the author says is owing to the

fact that the authorities know when strangers are coming and take pains to hide the atrocities. Conan Doyle writes with evident sincerity and depth of feeling; the proceeds of the book are to go towards the investigation and correction of the evils, and he is doing all in his power to arouse people to action. If even a part of what he describes is true, everything possible should be done in the interests of humanity. Still we must remember that there are other competent witnesses who find that the government of Belgium is not so culpable as this book would convince us, and when we read in its preface that "a perusal of all of these sources of information will show that there is not a grotesque, obscene or ferocious torture which human ingenuity could invent which has not been used against these harmless and helpless people," we cannot but feel that the author overlooks the provocation offered by natives which are among the most barbarous of existing tribes.

AN INTERVIEW. By *Daniel W. Church*. Chicago: The Berlin Carey Co., 1910. Pp. 163. Price \$1.00.

A rather remarkable little book and one which, in spite of a serious defect in its style, will have a wide appeal, in that it makes an attractive statement of the similarity in spirit between Abraham Lincoln and the chief character in the Christian religion.

The book begins with a picture of Lincoln's birth. There is delicacy of style in these few pages that amounts almost to homage for the child born amid surroundings so nearly like those of the Bethlehem babe, and the reader follows gladly, with increasing interest, while the author describes the "event which occurred in the little floorless cabin, in the State of Kentucky, the full result of which we have not yet seen nor shall we see for many years to come."

The first part of the book is so charming in its tender appeal to human sentiment that when the author takes up the serious part of his Interview, the reader's emotions suffer a distinct shock. The more or less confused statement of modern industrial problems creates a feeling almost of exasperation that the author did not take more time to clarify his ideas before attempting to prophesy a millennium. The book, however, contains plenty of insight into the true greatness and divinity of man.

Two recent publications of the *Dürr'sche Buchhandlung* of Leipsic are *Hegels Aesthetik im Verhältnis zu Schiller* (Price. 1.80 m.) in which the author, A. Lewkowitz, presents a contribution to the regeneration of German idealism; and *Gustav Freytags Kultur- und Geschichtspsychologie* by Dr. Georg Schridde (price 3 m.) which aims to show how Freytag's interpretation of history is mainly derived from Hegel's philosophy though it was greatly stimulated also by Humboldt's philosophy of language and the researches in mythology of Wilhelm and Jakob Grimm.

*Magic; the Magazine of Wonder*, published by Mr. Ernest Evangeline, of Kansas City, Mo., is a new candidate for public favor. It is a clever little journal, replete with novel and original ideas in magic and mystery, and will prove of interest to every amateur and professional conjurer who wishes to be up to date. The typography is artistic and the illustrations of a high order of merit.